

Reading Friends Meeting
West side of North Sixth Street between Washington
and Walnut Streets
Reading
Berks County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-1048

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

READING FRIENDS MEETING

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Location: West side of North Sixth Street between Washington and Walnut Streets, Reading, Berks County, Pennsylvania.

Present Owner and Occupant: Reading Friends Meeting

Present Use: Meetinghouse.

Brief Statement of Significance: This is a simple, one-story, stone meetinghouse, built in 1868.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The Reading Friends Meeting was organized and the first temporary meetinghouse erected in 1751. A more permanent building of "round logs" was erected at the corner of Queen and Thomas Streets in 1765. The lot on which this building stands was acquired in 1759. A building and planning committee for this, the new church, was appointed on April 24, 1867 consisting of Henry Tyson, Samuel E. Griscom, and John H. Reid, and the building was erected in 1868.

Reference: Montgomery, M. L., History of Berks County in Pennsylvania (Philadelphia: Everts, Peck and Richards, 1886), pp. 781-783.

Prepared by Osmund R. Overby, Architect
National Park Service - July 1962

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

This is a simple, late Classical, one-story building of field stone which resembles the 19th century addition to Old St. David's Protestant Episcopal Church at Radnor. It has good lines and a pleasant setting but no particular architectural distinction. The interior was not visited.

Prepared by Robert C. Smith, Professor of Art
University of Pennsylvania
October 1958.